

# "Torrance-On-the-Air" ...

... tanks and Tommies were being learned in this country ...

**MUSIC:** (FADES OUT)

**ANNOUNCER:** Torrance was emerging from its first depression ...

**SOUND:** (WHISTLES BLOWING, AUTOMOBILES, STREET CAR BELLS)

**MAN:** Yeah: Union Tool is putting on another hundred men ...

**WOMAN:** They're completing our home and planting more trees ...

**BOY:** Aw, gee th' new school is goin' to open up in September ...

**MAN:** Churches? Well, we've got three—the Baptist and the Catholic Mission and Rev. J. P. Ash is holding services in the theatre for the Central Evangelical people ...

**MUSIC:** (WAR MEDLEY ... OVER THERE ... K-K-KATIE ... ROSES OF PICARDY AND MADEMOISELLE FROM ARMENTIERES)

**ANNOUNCER:** The youth of Torrance responded to the call to the colors in 1917 and shortly there were 42 Torrance boys in training camps, soon to go over seas ... One of them did not return ...

**BUGLE:** (FAINTLY SOUNDING TAPS AS ANNOUNCER CONTINUES)

**ANNOUNCER:** (REVERENTLY) He was Bert S. Crossland and in his memory the American Legion post of Torrance now bears his name ... Four of the boys who enlisted from Torrance are members of that post today and still live here. They are Mayor William H. Tolson, J. Wallace Post, Col. N. F. Jamieson and Ralph Satchell.

**SOUND:** (FACTORY NOISE, MOTORS WHIRLING, BELLS AND WHISTLES)

**ANNOUNCER:** While the war ran its course Torrance steadily forged ahead ... After the Armistice the city's growth leaped again to a commanding position and soon ...

**MAN:** It's about time we have a city here in fact as well as a name ... Why don't we incorporate, elect a Mayor and have something to say about our city affairs instead of leaving them up to the county?

**ANNOUNCER:** Torrance citizens welcomed the idea of forming an incorporated city and this next step in civic progress was accomplished May 16, 1921 ... only nine years after the first building arose. Torrance granted the honor of being its first mayor to a man who had struggled along with the infant community ever since its founding ... George A. Proctor. The first city clerk was Robert J. Delninger ... Perry G. Briney, now a San Pedro attorney, was the initial city attorney. Other first officers were A. G. Pruitt, city recorder; H. R. Postle, city engineer; Ben Olsen, city marshal; Ben Hannebrink, fire chief; Dr. J. S. Lancaster, health officer; Mrs. Isabel Henderson, city librarian; William Gascoigne, street superintendent and members of the council were: Wallace H. Gilbert, R. R. Smith, Joseph F. Stone and J. M. Fitzhugh. To Gascoigne goes the unusual distinction of being the veteran in city service because he still holds the position of street superintendent today. City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, who was elected in April, 1922 ... 13 months after the city's incorporation is next on the roster of veteran public officials. He is now serving his fifth term ...

**ORGAN:** (FUNERAL MUSIC BACKGROUND)

**ANNOUNCER:** (REVERENTLY) Just eight days after the town he created became an incorporated city, Jared Sidney Torrance passed away at his South Pasadena home—March 29, 1921. In addition to providing for his widow and relatives, his will included generous bequests for many charitable institutions.

**MUSIC:** (FADES OUT)

**ANNOUNCER:** Notable among his gifts was one of a hospital in the city that bore his name. The institution, opened its doors May 9, 1925. It has contributed much toward the health and happiness of Torrance and surrounding communities and is efficiently operated by the non-profit Torrance Hospital association to which anyone may belong. There was one ailment, however, which was not cured in the Torrance Memorial hospital but found relief at polling places on six different occasions ... This was the city's growing pains ...

**VOICE:** Let's annex to Torrance! ...

**SECOND VOICE:** Mayor John Dennis, we want to come in your city! ...

**VOICES:** Northwest Torrance! ... Meadow Park Tract! ... Walteria ... Helbush Tract ... McDonald Tract ... South Torrance! ...

**MUSIC:** ("HAIL, HAIL THE GANG'S ALL HERE! FADE-OUT ...")

**ANNOUNCER:** In six years six annexation elections increased the size of Torrance from one square mile to its present size of 18.88 square miles with nearly a full mile of beach frontage on the Pacific Ocean. It is now the fifth largest city in area in the county.

**SOUND:** (FACTORY WHISTLES, BELLS, CLANKING MACHINERY FADES AS SOUND OF ESCAPING STEAM, OIL DRILLS GRINDING SURGES AND THEN FADES AND SUSTAINS)

**VOICES:** Oil in Torrance field! ...

... Oil! ... Oil! ... Oil! ... Oil!

**ANNOUNCER:** Starting with two wells in midsummer of 1922, the Torrance oil field sprang into such prominence that a major oil company executive on



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TORRANCE

LOS ANGELES

(Continued on Page 52)